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Meeting Minutes 03/19/2007

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 3/19/07

ATTENDEES:

| | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------|----------|-----------|
| McGaffigan* | Fey* | Dunn* | O'Neill* | Mahoney* |
| DeCoursey* | Connors* | Simmons | Bayer* | |
| Tosti* | Foskett* | Deyst* | Ronan* | |
| Ferrara* | Franclemont* | Jones* | Olsen* | |
| DuBois* | Howard* | Fanning | Carman* | Kneeland* |

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Human Rights Commission members Joe Curro (Chair), Bill Shea, Nancy Rhoads, Vicki Cohen, Sheri Baron; Historic Commissions Chair Stephen Makowka

MINUTES of 3/14/07 accepted as amended. Unanimous.

ART 49 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: Curro, assisted by the other members, reviewed the history & business of the commission. He described a proposed 6 to 8 hr seminar for elected, and appointed town leaders that would increase their sensitivity to human rights issues. The goal is to reach a consensus on how to deal with these issues. They stated that this approach has been useful in Winchester & Andover. It is supported by the Town Manager & the School Superintendent. Curro requested \$3000 budget increase for FY08 based on preliminary quotes. The Commission expects to end the year with a \$561 balance. VOTED \$7500 as requested and a suggestion to the Commission that a handbook or written protocol result from the seminar. 15-2.

ART 49 HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSIONS: Makowka requested a \$400 increase to cover the cost of the expanded districts. The Commission has not used its authority to level fees, preferring to encourage property owners to collaborate on meeting district goals. He sees this as more economical than an adversarial approach. The commission may levy a penalty of up to \$50/day for violations. Voted \$5100 as requested with a suggestion to the Commission that it consider fees for larger projects. 16-1. Kneeland to call both commissions.

.ART 49 VOTED \$2160 for the Historical Commission and \$1800 for the Recycling Committee. Unanimous

BUD 17b FIRE: Community Safety SubCom (O'Neill), using a handout, reviewed the department's status and recommended the budget as requested. There are 4 vacancies, there are no records of the number of calls since 2004, the BLS ambulance earns the town \$346k, and a budget shortfall of \$117K is predicted for FY07. The Chief wants to improve record keeping by piggybacking on the planned police record keeping software. Recent transfer of the only hazmat tech to Cambridge is an expensive loss. VOTED \$4,968,561. 16-0-1.

WATER & SEWER EF: W&S EF SubCom (Fey, Ferrara), using a detailed handout, recommended a variety of changes. Some of these changes resulted from the recent vote of the BoS to freeze the W&S debt shift to the tax rate which will increase the W&S rate by about 14%. Another change would increase the health insurance offset charged to the W&S EF by \$132k to account for retired W&S workers. The latest MWRA assessment resulted in a budget decrease of \$212k. This resulted in a net reduction in use of reserves to balance the budget. VOTED \$17,257,955. Unanimous. The SubCom to reconcile the interest & principal expenses w/ capital budget.

BUDGET SUMMARY: Tosti reviewed the one page summary for FY08 prepared by Jones. It shows a \$158k deficit and no contribution to the override stabilization fund. It includes the state aid in the governor's budget, much less than planned.

COMMITTEE: School Infrastructure 3/21, Education Budget 4/4.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$350,000-\$130,000=\$220,000

Peter B Howard Secretary 3/20/07 Revised 3/21

cc FinCom Members, Selectmen, Town Manager, Comptroller, Library File, Town Web Site FinCom Web Site

VOTE SUMMARY – Articles

| # | Title | Date Heard | Date Voted | Result Unlisted votes were unanimous |
|----|---|------------|------------|---|
| 18 | Data Processing Department Transfer | 2/21 | 2/21 | Jones to draft vote |
| 26 | Pension Funding | 2/21 | 2/21 | No action |
| 27 | Health Care Trust Funds | 2/5 | 2/21 | No action |
| 28 | Rental Receipts | 3/14 | | |
| 36 | SPED Fund | | | |
| 39 | Collective Bargaining | 3/14 | | |
| 40 | Future Collective Bargaining | 3/14 | | |
| 41 | Positions reclassification | | | |
| 42 | Carbon Bank | 2/5 | | No report |
| 43 | Energy manager | 2/5,3/14 | | Carman – Belmont plan Howard-Vision 2020 |
| 45 | Capital Budget | 3/12 | 3/12 | \$8,360,046 |
| 46 | Rescind Authority to Borrow | 3/12 | 3/12 | No action |
| 47 | Minuteman Tech | 3/5 | 3/7 | \$3,276,622 12-5 |
| 48 | Town Celebrations | 3/14 | | |
| 49 | Committees & Commissions | 3/14,19 | 3/19 | \$16560 |
| 50 | Miscellaneous | 3/14 | | |
| 51 | George St Sidewalk | 2/21 | | Need more info |
| 52 | School Facilities Working Group | | | |
| 53 | Sewers | 3/14 | | |
| 54 | Water | 3/14 | | |
| 55 | Liberty Ride | 3/12 | | No report - BoS |
| 56 | Pension Adjustments | 2/21 | 2/21 | Favorable action |
| 57 | Transfer Retiree Health Care Funds | 2/21 | 3/14 | Favorable action |
| 59 | 200 th Anniversary Committee | 2/21 | 3/7 | \$6200 13-4 |
| 61 | Town & School Budgets | 2/5 | 3/12 | No action |
| 62 | Harry Barber Program | 3/7 | 3/7 | \$7,500 |
| 63 | Minuteman Senior Services | 3/7 | 3/7 | \$9,818 15-2 |
| 64 | Revaluation | 2/21 | 2/21 | \$325,000 |
| 65 | Tip Fee Stab Fund | | | |
| 66 | Cemetery | | | |
| 67 | Overlay Reserve Surplus | | | |
| 68 | Stabilization Fund | | | |
| 69 | Free Cash | | | |
| 72 | W&S Health Insurance Offsets | 2/5 | | Finances Sub to investigate |

VOTE SUMMARY-Budgets

| # | Title | Date Heard | Date Voted | Amount | Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous |
|-----|---------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|---|
| 1 | FinCom | 2/26 | 2/26 | \$10,778 | 15-1 |
| 2 | Board of Selectmen | 2/26 | 2/26 | \$343,723 | |
| 3 | Tow n Manager | 2/26 | 2/26 | \$432,326 | |
| 4 | Personnel | 3/12 | 3/12 | \$179,228 | 11-2 |
| 5 | Comptroller | 3/7 | 3/7 | \$830,407 | |
| 6 | Treasurer | 3/5 | 3/5 | \$552,840 | 13-0-1 |
| 7 | Postage | 3/5 | 3/5 | \$135,160 | 13-0-1 |
| 8 | Assessors | 2/26 | 2/26 | \$286,221 | |
| 9 | Legal | 2/26 | | | |
| 10 | Tow n Clerk | 2/26 | 2/26 | \$221,957 | |
| 11 | Registrar of Voters | 2/26 | 2/26 | \$61,787 | 15-1 |
| 12 | Parking | 3/5 | 3/5 | \$90,766 | 13-0-1 |
| 13 | Planning | 2/26 | 2/26 | \$208,782 | |
| 14 | Redevelopment Board | 2/26 | 2/26 | \$480,777 | |
| 15 | Zoning Board of Appeals | 2/28 | 2/28 | \$22,296 | |
| 16 | Public Works | | | | |
| 17a | Community Safety Admin | 3/7 | 3/7 | \$343,148 | |
| 17b | Police | 3/7 | 3/7 | \$5,289,617 | |
| 17c | Fire | 3/19 | 3/19 | \$4,968,561 | |
| 17d | Support | 3/12 | 3/12 | \$633,957 | |
| 18 | Inspections | 3/7 | 3/7 | \$328,342 | |
| 19 | Education | | | | |
| 20 | Library | 2/26 | 2/28 | \$1,811,090 | |
| 21 | Health & Human Services | | | | |
| 22b | Veterans | 3/12 | 3/12 | \$223,311 | |
| 22 | Retirement | 2/28 | 2/28 | \$6,706,719 | |
| 23 | Insurance | | | | |
| | Workmans Comp | 2/28 | 2/28 | \$490,000 | |
| | Unemployment | 2/28 | 2/28 | \$100,000 | |
| | Liability | 2/28 | 2/28 | \$300,000 | |
| 24 | Reserve Fund | 2/28 | 2/28 | \$400,000 | |
| W&S | Water & Sew er EF (balanced) | 3/19 | 3/19 | \$17,257,955 | |
| Rec | | | | | |

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|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| Rnk | | | | | |
| COA | | | | | |